

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendment to Claim 16 addresses the Examiner's comment presented under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

New Claims 26-35 describe preferred embodiments of the invention, which are supported throughout the specification. See, for example, the original claims and specification page 4, lines 21-22. No new matter has been entered.

Previously, Applicants submitted a certified English translation of their priority document, antedating the Koike reference (EP 1,051,964). In addition, Applicants would like to point out that the present invention is patentable over the subject matter disclosed therein.

For example, newly added Claims 26-35 either require the composition to be free from water-soluble polymer, or are quite specific with regard to the particular components of the claimed composition. Koike, on the other hand, specifically requires a water-soluble polymer as component (A) therein, and thus clearly relies on the presence of this component in providing the disclosed *gommage*. In addition, Koike does not disclose a composition containing the particular combination of components as described in, e.g., new Claim 30.

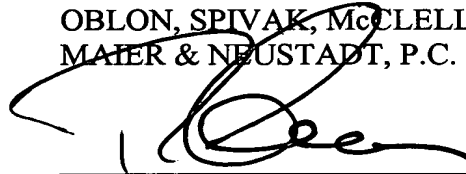
Further support for the patentability of the present claims over the disclosure in Koike and its equivalents is found in the Examples and Comparative Examples herein, which show the importance of the physical presence of at least one magnesium or calcium halide, as claimed. In this regard, Applicants note Comparative Example 1 (specification page 9) prepared without calcium chloride, which provided instability with decantation. In addition, Comparative Example 2 (specification page 10), using sodium chloride rather than a magnesium or calcium halide, provided an unacceptable, insoluble composition with poor characteristics. Comparative Example 3 (specification page 10) also made without salt, provided a composition with poor viscosity. No Example in Koike describes a composition with both zeolite and a magnesium or calcium halide, as claimed. Moreover, in Koike

invention product 6 uses both zeolite and sodium chloride in a manner similar to that provided in Comparative Example 2 herein. See also Invention Product 9 at Table 4 of Koike, also using zeolite and sodium chloride as in Comparative Example 2.

Accordingly, and for the reasons previously presented and those presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance as Koike '694 is unavailable as prior art herein, and, in any event, the subject matter described and claimed herein is patentable over the disclosure in Koike and its equivalents.

Respectfully submitted,

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